

**CURRENT CLAIMS SCHEDULE:**

- 1    1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling calls in a telecommunication system  
2    comprising the steps of:
  - 3    defining a first switching model which does not support self-routing connec-  
4    tionless communications and in which call control signaling and media switching are ef-  
5    fectively coupled;
  - 6    defining a second switching model which does support self-routing connec-  
7    tionless communications and in which call control signaling and media switching are ef-  
8    fectively decoupled, said telecommunications system being configured to switch substan-  
9    tially no bearer traffic during said second switching model; and
- 10      at the initiation of a call or during the progress of the call assigning one of said  
11      first and second switching models to said call.
- 1    2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said telecommunication  
2    system is a converged services platform (CSP).
- 1    3. Cancelled.
- 1    4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said step of assigning is  
2    performed on a call-by-call basis.
- 1    5. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said step of assigning is  
2    performed according to a host message.
- 1    6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 5, wherein said step of assigning de-  
2    faults to a particular switching model in the event said host message is unavailable.

- 1    7. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said step of assigning is
- 2    performed dynamically one or more times during said call.
  
- 1    8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: pro-
- 2    viding media resources arranged on a media server.
  
- 1    9. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 8, wherein said media resources are
- 2    selected from a group consisting of: generating tones, detecting tones, providing confer-
- 3    encing, recording announcements, and playing announcements.
  
- 1    10. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 8, wherein said media server is co-
- 2    located with switching hardware of said telecommunication system.
  
- 1    11. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 8, wherein said media server is geo-
- 2    graphically remote from said switching hardware of said telecommunication system.
  
- 1    12. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- 2    modifying existing telecommunication switching platforms with operating software to
- 3    meet capabilities of assigning one of said first and second switching models to said call.
  
- 1    13. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of: es-
- 2    tablishing an early media path prior to receiving an answer to said initiation of said call.
  
- 1    14. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 13, wherein said early media path
- 2    plays a recorded announcement.

- 1    15. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2    transitioning between a 2-way voice path and a 2-way data path during said call.
  
- 1    16. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 15, wherein said data path is used for  
2    | transmitting data from a data communication device, such as a fax or modem.
  
- 1    17. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2    | augmenting a 2-way voice path with a 2-way data path during said call.
  
- 1    18. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 17, wherein said data path is used for  
2    | transmitting data from a data communication device, such as a fax or modem.
  
- 1    19. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said telecommunication  
2    system is configured as an interactive voice response (IVR) system.
  
- 1    20. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 19, wherein said IVR system pro-  
2    vides a prepaid calling service.
  
- 1    21. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 19, further comprising the steps of:  
2        A method for controlling calls in a telecommunications system configured as an  
3        interactive voice response (IVR) system, said method comprising the steps of:  
4            defining a first switching model in which call control signaling and media switch-  
5            ing are effectively coupled;  
6            defining a second switching model in which call control signaling and media  
7            switching are effectively decoupled;  
8            at the initiation of a call or during the progress of the call, assigning one of said  
9            first and second switching models to said call;

10 providing a two-way RTP voice path from a first session initiation protocol end-  
11 point to a second telecommunication system having said interactive voice response sys-  
12 tem;

13 establishing a two-way TDM voice path between said interactive voice response  
14 system and with said second telecommunication system;

15 obtaining DTMF digits from said interactive voice response system;

16 after information is obtained from said interactive voice response system:

17 i) issuing messages to a second session initiation protocol end-point;

18 ii) establishing a two-way RTP voice path between said first session initiation  
19 protocol end-point and said second session initiation protocol end-point;  
20 and

21 iii) releasing said channel established between said interactive voice response  
22 system and said second telecommunication system; and

23 establishing a two-way RTP voice path between said first end-point and said sec-  
24 ond end-point.

1 22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as in claim 1, wherein assigning said second~~  
2 ~~switching model further comprises the steps of:~~

3 A method for controlling calls in a telecommunication system comprising the  
4 steps of:

5 defining a first switching model in which call control signaling and media switch-  
6 ing are effectively coupled;

7 defining a second switching model in which call control signaling and media  
8 switching are effectively decoupled;

9 at the initiation of a call or during the progress of the call, assigning one of said  
10 first and second switching models to said call, and wherein assigning said second switch-

11 | ing model includes establishing a two-way RTP voice path between a first session initia-  
12 | tion protocol end-point and a second session initiation protocol end-point, by said tele-  
13 | communication system performing the following:

- 14 | i) receiving a message from said first end-point and in response thereto, issuing  
15 | a Request for Service with a data message to an associated host, with  
16 | Session Description Protocol data of said first end-point contained within  
17 | said data message, via an application programming interface with said  
18 | host;
- 19 | ii) receiving a Route Control message generated by said host, and in response  
20 | signaling a call to said second end-point using an available voice over IP  
21 | channel;
- 22 | iii) issuing to said second end-point an invite message, which includes said  
23 | first end-point Session Description Protocol as data, and waiting for said  
24 | second end-point to return a ringing message;
- 25 | iv) in response, issuing a ringing message to said first end-point and subsequently receiving from said second end-point, an OK message indicating  
26 | that said second end-point is available to accept said call initiated by said  
27 | first end-point;
- 28 | v) issuing a message to said host with information regarding said first and  
29 | second end-points and waiting for said host to respond with a message instructing  
30 | said telecommunication system to process said call in accordance  
31 | with said second switching model; and
- 32 | vi) issuing further messages to establish a two-way RTP voice path between  
33 | said first and second end-points.

1 | 23. (New) The method as in claim 22, wherein said invite message is a SIP INVITE  
2 | message.

- 1    24. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of:  
2    establishing an early media path between said telecommunication system and said host to  
3    establish a two-way RTP early voice path between said first and second end-points.
  
- 1    25. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 24, wherein said second end-point  
2    plays a recorded announcement via said RTP early voice path.
  
- 1    26. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 25, wherein a media server is acting  
2    on behalf of said second end-point.
  
- 1    27. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of:  
2    transitioning from said two-way RTP voice path to a two-way RTP data path upon said  
3    telecommunication system receiving a re-invite message from said second session initia-  
4    tion protocol end-point.
  
- 1    28. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 27, wherein said re-invite message is  
2    a SIP RE-INVITE message.
  
- 1    29. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:  
2        providing an internal media data transfer at said telecommunication system; and  
3        issuing a re-invite message to said first end-point, to establish a two-way RTP  
4        Data path between said first end-point and said second end-point.
  
- 1    30. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system comprising:  
2        switching hardware having circuitry for operating under a first switching model  
3        and in which call control signaling and media switching are effectively coupled, and a  
4        second switching model which does support self-routing connectionless communications

5 | and in which call control signaling and media switching are effectively decoupled, said  
6 | telecommunication system being configured to switch substantially no bearer traffic; and  
7 |       a processor to assign one of said first and second switching models to said call at  
8 |       the initiation of a call or during the progress of the call.

1 | 31. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2 | telecommunication system is a converged services platform (CSP).

1 | 32. Cancelled.

1 | 33. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2 | processor assigns said switching models on a call-by-call basis.

1 | 34. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2 | processor assigns said switching models in response to a host message.

1 | 35. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 34, wherein said  
2 | step of assigning defaults to a particular switching model in the event said host message  
3 | is unavailable.

1 | 36. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2 | processor assigns said switching models dynamically one or more times during said call.

1 | 37. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, further com-  
2 | prising: a media server for providing media resources.

- 1    38. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 37, wherein said  
2    media resources are selected from a group consisting of: generating tones, detecting  
3    tones, providing conferencing, recording announcements, and playing announcements.
  
- 1    39. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 37, wherein said  
2    media server is co-located with switching hardware of said telecommunication system.
  
- 1    40. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 37, wherein said  
2    media server is geographically remote from said switching hardware of said telecommu-  
3    nication system.
  
- 1    41. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, further com-  
2    prising: operating software for modifying existing telecommunication switching plat-  
3    forms to meet capabilities of assigning one of said first and second switching models to  
4    said call.
  
- 1    42. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein an  
2    early media path is established prior to receiving an answer to said initiation of said call.
  
- 1    43. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 42, wherein said  
2    early media path is utilized for playing a recorded announcement.
  
- 1    44. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2    switching hardware transitions between a 2-way voice path and a 2-way data path during  
3    said call.
  
- 1    45. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2    switching hardware augments a 2-way voice path with a 2-way data path during said call.

1    46. (Currently Amended) The telecommunication system as in claim 44, wherein said  
2    data path is used for transmitting data from a data communication device, such as a fax or  
3    modem.

1    47. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 30, wherein said  
2    telecommunication system is configured as an interactive voice response (IVR) system.

1    48. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system as in claim 47, wherein said  
2    IVR system provides a prepaid calling service.

1    49. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system comprising:

2        means for defining a first switching model which does not support self-routing  
3        connectionless communications and in which call control signaling and media switching  
4        are effectively coupled;

5        means for defining a second switching model which does support self-routing  
6        connectionless communications and in which call control signaling and media switching  
7        are effectively decoupled, said telecommunications system being configured to support  
8        substantially no bearer traffic during said secondary switching model; and

9        means for assigning one of said first and second switching models to said call at  
10      the initiation of a call or during the progress of the call.